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# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### NEW YORK FISHERY RECEIPTS FOR 1940 SHOW SMALL GAIN

New York still is the largest fish-consuming metropolitan area in the United States, utilizing a greater number of varieties than any other city and drawing the bulk of its salt-water fishery products from the Eastern Seaboard, it was reported today to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by Wm. H. Dumont, Marketing Specialist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in an analytical review of the annual New York Fishery Market News summary.

Released today, the summary lists in detail the receipts of fresh and frozen salt water fishery products in the Fulton Market area.

"A total of 235,103,000 pounds of fresh and frozen salt-water fishery products was received during 1940 by the dealers in New York City's wholesale salt-water market in the Fulton Market area," according to Mr. Dumont's report. "This figure, which does not include 6,148,357 pounds of imports arriving by vessel and entered at New York, represents an increase of about 3 percent as compared with 228,293,000 pounds in the first annual report in 1939. Shipments arrived at Fulton Market by truck, rail express, rail freight, fishing craft, freight boat, and coastwise liner. During 1940 air express was not used although several small shipments were made in 1939.

"The small increase in receipts during 1940 can be accounted for mainly by the improved and enlarged coverage of the firms in the market area, and inclusion of practically all the hotel supply and fillet-cutting companies."

A total of 124 species consisting of 87 salt-water, 6 fresh-water, and 31 shellfish and miscellaneous items was shipped from production points in 30 States, Alaska, 6 Canadian Provinces and Newfoundland. A large number of these varieties also were shipped frozen not only from the State or Province where caught, but also reshipped from other States far removed from the point of capture.

The three leading species received fresh--each amounting to over 20 million pounds--were yellowtail flounders, hard clams (gross weight), and cod. The next five species were shrimp, haddock, blackback or winter flounder, mackerel, and shell oysters, with receipts ranging from 10 to 15 million pounds each.

The eight species listed above accounted for 58 percent of the total receipts for 1940. Receipts of yellowtail flounder made the largest increase--48 percent--when compared with the previous year. Cod, mackerel, pollock, shad, smelt, sea herring, and Spanish mackerel showed increases, while bluefish, butterfish, fluke, scup, gray sea trout, and striped bass came into the market in 1940 in smaller amounts than in 1939.

Of the 6 species of fresh-water fish, three--brook trout, catfish and crappie--are handled exclusively by the salt-water dealers, while the other three are also sold in larger quantities on Peck Slip, the wholesale fresh-water market.

Among shellfish, hard clams led in total weight, with shrimp second, followed by shell oysters, sea scallops, lobsters, squid, mussels, soft

clams, hard crabs, and shucked oysters. These 10 species--out of a total of 31--accounted for 93 percent of the total quantity of shellfish. However, if only the meat or edible part of each shellfish is considered, shrimp would be the leading item, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the shellfish total. Sea scallops would be the next most important.

Thirty States and Alaska, together with 6 Canadian Provinces and Newfoundland, shipped fishery products to the salt-water market. New York, including landings by fishing vessels, was the leading State with 35 percent, while Massachusetts was second with 31 percent. New Jersey was third with 6 percent. These 3 States and direct fishing craft landings supplied the New York City market with 72 percent of its fishery products. Shipments of domestic origin accounted for 97 percent, while 3 percent were imported.

Considered by sections, the Middle Atlantic States produced 41 percent, with hard clams, oysters, and butterfish as the three leading species. New England was the next most important shipping center with 34 percent, mainly groundfish. The South Atlantic and Gulf States contributed 10 percent, of which a large part was shrimp. The Chesapeake Bay region was the fourth most important shipping area with 4 percent, largely croakers, soft crabs, and scup. The Pacific Coast, including Alaska and British Columbia, shipped a little less than 4 percent, mainly halibut and salmon. Newfoundland and the Eastern or Maritime Provinces of Canada supplied  $1\frac{1}{2}$  percent of the total, largely frozen smelt. Shipments from inland States amounted to less than one-half of one percent.

Rail arrivals--express and freight combined--declined, while truck shipments increased. Trucks handled 61 percent of the fish and shellfish shipped to the salt-water market in 1940 as compared with 54 percent in 1939.

Railroads, both freight and express, carried a little over 26 percent, while water traffic, which included fishing craft, freight boats, and coastwise shipments, accounted for the remainder, or 13 percent.

A comparison of the monthly arrivals shows that the receipts were heaviest during May, with a total of 23,128,000 pounds, followed by October and September. The smallest quantity--17,471,000 pounds--was received in January with November a close second.

Imports arriving by vessel and entered at New York City amounted to 6,148,357 pounds showing a decrease of over a million and a half pounds in 1940 as compared with 1939. Frozen swordfish from Japan, and spiny lobster tails from the Union of South Africa, were the most important items, with receipts of the latter showing an increase over the preceding year. These countries were the largest shippers, followed by Portugal and Canada. In 1939 Portugal shipped twice as much, with Russia in fourth place. During 1940 no seafoods were received from Russia.

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